# AN ACCOUNT of the Seizing,

OR

## Apprehending, Behaviour, Confeſſion, *and* Commitment *to* Newgate.

OF

*MARY St. DUNSTAN*, (Born near *Temple-bar*)

*The Bloody Midwifes Servant, Committed by Warrant from the Right Honourable, Sir John Fleet, Knight, Lord Major. With an Account of Reaſons for the Midwife's Poyſoning of her ſelf in* Newgate.

Licenſed According to Order. 13. Sept. 1693.

SInce the taking and commitment to *Newgate* of *Mary Compton* the Bloody Midwife of *Poplar*, all the care and induſtry imaginable has been uſed by the Maſters of the Pariſh of *Poplar*, the Beadles of St. *Dunſtans* and other Pariſhes for the Apprehending of Mrs. *Mary*, the Servant of the ſaid Midwife; She laying all her Crimes on the ſaid Maid. By the Induſtry of the Searchers ſome ſmall Intelligence was got of our Mrs. *Mary* ſome days ſince by which She was ſo traced, that yeſterday being *Monday Sept.* 11*th.* She was apprehended by *Thames-ſtreet* near *London-Bridge*, and by Conſtables carried before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and before his Lordſhip, She was Examined, where She continued very obſtinate and impudent, her Miſtreſs having taught and tutored her in all her Paces; His Lordſhip asking her, her Name, all that She would confeſs, as to that particular, was, that her Name is *Mary*, and by no means She could be brought to any other, ſaying, She knew no other Name She had, or ever was call'd by; which is not improbable, conſidering that this Creature has lived with the Midwife from a Child, and the Neighbours where the Midwife formerly lived, looked upon this Maid to be ſome By-blow or Baſtard; and as 'tis ſuppos'd preſerv'd and brought up by her Miſtreſs on purpoſe to be an Inſtrument and Confederate with her in her horrid Practices: During her being before the Lord Mayor, ſeveral Affidavits were taken by his Lordſhip, on the Account of her being Confederate with her Miſtreſs the Midwife, in murthering divers young Children (as the following Narrative treats off) upon which She was committed to *Newgate* by Warrant or *Mittimus*, under his Lordſhips Hand and Seal.

In *Newgate* She is kept apart from her Miſtreſs, then not being ſuffer'd to converſe with each other.

*Poſtſcript.* Since her being in *Newgate* her right Name is known, being *Mary St. Dunſtan*, by which Name She was Chriſtened, being a foundling of *St. Dunſtan*'s Pariſh in the Weſt, by whom She was put out to the Midwife, about Sixteen years ſince; She is about Eighteen years of Age.

We ſhall now proceed to our Narrative of the Midwife, *Mary Crompton*, who many years ſince having the Acquaintance of an Eminent Midwife, was by her Inſtructed, and has Practiſed the ſame for a long time; and for many Years She has alſo us'd to take Children, always making her Bargain to have ſo much Money in hand for the bringing them up; what Nurſe She proved to them, the following Account Relates: Her real Practice as to laying of Women with Child has been very inconſiderable, She liv'd for a conſiderable time at *Wolwich* by *Greenwich*, where She kept an Ale-houſe and Chandlers-ſhop, and there She made pretenſions to Midwifry the better to manage her damnable Deſigns on Children. She came to live at *Poplar*, which is near *Stepney*, about Two Years ſince, taking a large Houſe, where none but Perſons of conſiderable Rank had lived before, bringing with her at firſt only a Maid Servant, going for a Midwife of great note to Perſons of Quality; here ſhe had not continued long, before ſhe was obſerved to have ſeveral Children of divers Ages; but all the time of her living in this Place has been very private, not in the leaſt aſſociating herſelf with any of the Neighbourhood, or coming to Church, &c. but her Maid Servant would often be in Diſcourſe with ſome of the adjacent Neighbours Maids, being always very inquiſitive with them, but ſhe would never communicate any thing of her Miſtreſſes Domeſtick Affairs. The Midwife herſelf was ſcarce ever ſeen in the Neighbourhood, not ſo much as to ſtand at the Door, but ſteping into the Coach early in the morning, and coming home in a Coach in the Night, and ſeldom or never were any Viſitants ſeen to come thither, but only ſome Gentlemen and others often in the Evening or Night, except it were ſome of the Pariſh for the Kings Taxes, the Miniſters, Poor or other Duties, which generally, if ſhe hapen to be at home ſhe readily paid them at the Door, or ſent the Maid to them with the money and many compleſant Words; ſhe was obſerved to be often from home for ſeveral days together, yet ſo much was her maid ſervant her Confederate & Creature, that the Affaires of the Houſe was kept ſo private and obſcure from the Neighbours, that they could not tell how many Children ſhe had in the Houſe, or how often changed, or otherwiſe diſpoſed of: *Mrs. Crompton* is between Fifty and Threeſcore Years of Age, and her maid has often declared upon ſeveral Occaſions, That her miſtreſs has been a Midwife above Thirty Years; and 'tis generally ſaid that ſhe ſhe has followed this barbarous Infant murmurdering Trade ſo long, the truth of which is beſt known to the Omnipreſent God, the ſearcher of Hearts, who can bring the moſt hiden Things of Darkneſs to light, and from whom no Secret is hid, who for Reaſons beſt known to his Providence, permits ſome Perſons Sins to go before to Judgment, that is to be puniſhed in this Life, and others to come after, that is, reſerved to the Tribunal of the great Day.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Crompton* going out of Town the beginning of the laſt Week, on *Friday*, pretty early in the Morning, the Maid-Servant (no doubt by the Order and Appointment of the Miſtriſs) left the Houſe likewiſe, leaving at home a Boyabout Seven Years of Age, and a Girlabout Six Years Old, with a little Infant in the Cradle, leaving with them for Food only a piece of Cheeſe and Water, not any Beer or Bread, but bid the Boy, in caſe the young Child cryed, to give it ſome Water, and ſhe would return in a little time; all which the Boy has ſince related: The Children continuing in the Houſe alone moſt part of the Day, and no Maid returning, grew very impatient, and particularly for want of Suſtenance, *&c.* and the Boy bringing of it into an outward Room next the Street, a Neighbour's Son paſſing by, and hearing the Child cry, called to the Boy to know what was the matter; to whom he declar'd, after ſome time, the Reaſons: That they were left all day alone in the Houſe, without Victuals, and that the young Child was almoſt ſtarved; after which, Neighbours being called, the Conſtable and Maſters of the Pariſh were ſent for, ſome of whom coming and entring the Houſe, examined the two Chilgren, who declared as before mentioned; and farther, beſides the Infant in the Cradle, the Boy declared there were two more that lay Dead in a Hand-basket upon a Shelf in the Cellar; another lay Buried in the Garden, and a Fourth in the Cellar: Upon preſent ſearch, they found the Two Children in the Hand-basket as the Boy had ſaid, they being moſt lamentable Objects of Humane Miſery, looking at firſt ſight, were liker the Carkaſſes of Catts or Doggs than Humane Creatures, all their skin being off, as likewiſe their Eyes and part of their Fleſh eat with Vermin, ſtinking in a lamentable manner.

On *Monday* being 21*ſt.* Inſtant, the Coroners Inqueſt were Impanell'd, and coming to the Houſe where the Dead Bodies lay in the Basket, after viewing of them, they ordered ſome Labourers (according to the Words of the Boy) to Dig in ſeveral ſoft places of the Cellar where they perceived the ground had been broken, where, after ſome time, they Dug up ſix ſeveral Skeletons of Children of ſeveral Ages; upon which Night coming on, the Coroner Adjourn'd the Jury-till the next Day, reſolving to have the ground in the Garden likewiſe to be broken up before they brought in their Verdict, many of the Spectators took ſeveral of the Bones and carried them away, ſome of which are now to be ſeen at the *Ben-Johnſon's* Head, near *St. Brides* Church by *Fleetſtreet.*

Who were the Parents of theſe Children, or upon what account this Midwife had the keeping of them, is not certainly known, though it's generally conjectured, and that not without a great deal of Reaſon, that theſe were thoſe commonly called *By-blows*, or *Baſtards*, which ſhe undertook, for a certain Sum of Money agreed on, to eaſe the Parents of, by keeping them as long as they lived. *P. S.*

*On Tueſday, Auguſt* 22. This Day the Coroner's Inqueſt met again, but were adjourned till *Monday*, on the Account that they had not done digging in the Garden, and other ports for Children, and for other Reaſons. This Day likewiſe about One in the Afternoon, our Madam *Compton*, alias *Norman*, was Apprehended near *Covent-Garden*, and with the Aſſiſtance of the Conſtables and Beadles, being led between two Men, attended with a numerous Croud of People; ſhe was carried to the Petty Seſſions of *Bloomsbury*, where ſhe was Examined before their Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace there ſitting; who likewiſe took ſeveral Affidavits, by which ſhe is vehemently ſuſpected (if not poſitively charged) to have Murthered ſeveral Children that were put to her to Nurſe; upon which ſhe was from thence Committed to *Newgate*, by the Warrant or Mittimus ſigned by the Worſhipfull Juſtices of the Peace then on the Bench.

When our Doughty Midwife was firſt ſeized, all the way ſhe went to the Juſtices, and when ſhe came before their Worſhips, ſhe was obſerved to carry her ſelf with a great deal of Confidence, not ſeeming in the leaſt concern'd, or much denying the Fact.

At her firſt being in *Newgate*, She behaved her ſelf very very impudently, which grew afterwards into a ſullenneſs; and juſt before the Seſſions that She expected to be Tryed, She fell ill: She was brought to the *Old-Bayly* tyed in a Chair, and carried on a Man's back, but the Court finding her very ill, the Tryal was put off till next Seſſions: She continues ſtill in a very languiſhing Condition, and ſeveral Phyſicians and other Ingenious Men that have been to viſit Her, give it as their Opinion, that they verily believe She has given her ſelf a Doſe of lingring Poyſon, as a *French* Midwife of *Paris*, did, on the like occaſion ſome years ſince.

Printed for *John Wallis* near the *Green Dragon Tavern* in *Fleet-ſtreet.*